

REMARKS

Applicants submit this response in reply to the final Office Action mailed October 8, 2008. Prior to this response, claims 43-51, 53-58, and 62-84 were pending. By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 47 and 50. Thus, claims 43-46, 48, 49, 51, 53-58, and 62-84 remain pending in this application, of which claims 43 and 84 are independent. Applicants have also amended claims 43, 48, 49, 51, 53, 63, and 84. No new matter would be added.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 63 due to formalities; rejected claims 43-49, 54-58, 66, 68, 69, 73, 74, 76-81, and 84 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 2710620 ("Siewerth") in view of JP 08-331729 ("Shuiji"); and rejected claims 70 and 71 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Siewerth in view of Shuiji, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,447,795 ("Sefko").

In this Reply, Applicants have amended independent claims 43 and 84.
Amended independent claim 43 now recites, among other things:

An electrical power transmission line comprising: . . . at least one shielding element comprising a plurality of shielding modules . . . , each of said plurality of shielding modules comprising a base and a cover, the base comprising a bottom wall, a pair of side walls, and a pair of flanges extending in a predetermined direction from the end portions of the side walls

Amended independent claim 84 now recites, among other things:

A method for shielding the magnetic field generated by an electrical power transmission line comprising at least one electrical cable, comprising the following steps of: providing at least one shielding element comprised of a plurality of shielding modules arranged side by side . . . each of said shielding modules comprising a base and a cover, the base comprising a bottom wall and a pair of side walls, the cover comprising a main wall, and either the base comprising a

pair of flanges extending in a predetermined direction from the end portions of the side walls or the cover comprising a pair of flanges extending in a predetermined direction from the end portions of the main wall . . .

Support for these amendments can be found in Applicants' specification at least at page 7, lines 30-33, page 8, lines 24-30, page 22, lines 14-19 and Figures 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Applicants respectfully traverse all pending rejections for at least the reasons outlined below.

Claim Objection

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 63 due to a formality, stating, "Claim 63 should be changed to depend on claim 62, otherwise 'said predetermined length' lacks antecedent basis." In response, Applicants have amended claim 63 to depend from claim 62.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applying 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner rejected claims 43-49, 54-58, 66, 68, 69, 73, 74, 76-81, and 84 as being unpatentable over Siewerth in view of Shuji; and rejected claims 70 and 71 as being patentable over Siewerth in view of Shuji and further in view of Sefko. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See M.P.E.P. § 2142, 8th Ed., Rev. 5 (August 2006). Moreover, "in formulating a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based upon a combination of prior art elements, it remains necessary to identify the reason why a person of ordinary skill in the art would have combined the prior art elements in the manner claimed." USPTO Memorandum from

Margaret A. Focarino, Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations, May 3, 2007, page

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A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because, among other things, none of Siewerth, Shuiji, Sefko, nor their combination, teaches or suggests every feature of Applicants' claims. Specifically, with respect to amended independent claim 43, none of the cited references teaches or suggests "each of said plurality of shielding modules comprising a base and a cover, the base comprising a bottom wall, a pair of side walls, and a pair of flanges extending in a predetermined direction from the end portions of the side walls . . ."

In the final Office Action, the Examiner concedes that claim 50, as previously presented, "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Presumably, the Examiner has concluded that the "pair of flanges extending in a predetermined direction from the end portions of the side walls of the base," recited in claim 50, is not disclosed or suggested in the prior art. As a result, Applicants have amended independent claim 43 to incorporate these features of claim 50.

With regard to amended independent claim 84, Applicants assert that not only are the flanges of dependent claim 50 not disclosed in Siewerth, Shuiji, or Sefko, but the flanges described in one exemplary embodiment depicted in Figure 4 of Applicants' application, which extend a predetermined direction from the end portions of the main wall of the cover, rather than the side walls of the base, are similarly absent from the references. Thus, none of the references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest "either the base comprising a pair of flanges extending in a predetermined direction

from the end portions of the side walls or the cover comprising a pair of flanges extending in a predetermined direction from the end portions of the main wall."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of amended independent claims 43 and 84 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Moreover, claims 44-46, 48, 49, 54-58, 66, 68-71, 73, 74, and 76-81 depend from claim 43, and thus, contain all the elements and limitations thereof. As a result, dependent claims 44-46, 48, 49, 54-58, 66, 68-71, 73, 74, and 76-81 should be allowable over the cited references.

Claim Scope

It is to be understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification, abstract, and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicants believe that they are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 43-46, 48, 49, 54-58, 66, 68-71, 73, 74, 76-81, and 84 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art reference cited against this application. Applicants therefore request entry of this Amendment, reexamination of the application, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections, and timely allowance of all of pending claims.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation might advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (404) 653-6435.

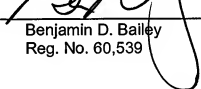
Applicants respectfully submit that the final Office Action contains a number of assertions concerning the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether those assertions are addressed specifically herein, Applicants respectfully decline to automatically subscribe to them.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 8, 2008

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